



PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 8442.0002.02

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

**Joseph C. CAUTHEN**

Application No.: 10/075,615

Filed: February 15, 2002

For: SPINAL DISC ANNULUS  
RECONSTRUCTION METHOD AND  
SPINAL DISC ANNULUS STENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

**Please replace paragraph [008] with the following amended paragraph:**

An additional method of relieving the symptoms is thermal annuloplasty, involving the heating of sub-annular zones in the non-herniated painful disc, seeking pain relief, but making no claim of reconstruction of the ruptured, discontinuous annulus wall.

RECEIVED  
APR 17 2002  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

FINNEGAN  
HENDERSON  
FARABOW  
GARRETT &  
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.408.4000  
Fax 202.408.4400  
www.finnegan.com